

REMARKS

The species election mailed August 6, 2004, has been received and reviewed. While applicants agree with the Examiner's initial determination that all of the claims are generic, to expedite prosecution the applicants reaffirm their election of Group B and indicate the claims that read on Group B. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The applicants thank the Examiner for agreeing to expedite prosecution of the present application upon receipt of this response (page 2 of the Office Action).

Species B is described as a method comprising providing Dendritic cells (DCs) with a substance capable of activating a glucocorticoid receptor, activating the DCs, providing the DCs with an antigen, and obtaining a DC capable of tolerizing a T cell (page 2 of the Office Action). Claims 40-50, 51-55, 56-63, 64, and 65-68 read on species B. Thus, claim 1 stands withdrawn.

Specifically, claims 40-50 are directed to a method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for reducing unwanted T cell response, wherein the DCs are provided by "culturing peripheral blood monocytes from said host to differentiate into dendritic cells," providing Dendritic cells (DCs) with a substance capable of activating a glucocorticoid receptor corresponds to "activating said dendritic cells with a substance capable of activating a glucocorticoid receptor," providing the DCs with an antigen corresponds to "bringing said dendritic cells into contact with an antigen against which said T-cell response is to be reduced" and obtaining a DC capable of tolerizing a T cell corresponds to "forming a pharmaceutical composition comprising said loaded, activated dendritic cells." Therefore, independent claim 40 and dependent claims 41-50 read on species B.

Claims 51-55 recite a method comprising "providing said dendritic cell with a substance capable of activating a glucocorticoid receptor," "activating said dendritic cell," "providing said dendritic cell with said antigen," and obtaining a "dendritic cell is capable of tolerizing a T-cell." Therefore, independent claim 51 and dependent claims 52-55 read on species B.

Claims 56-63 are directed to a method wherein providing DCs with a substance capable of activating a glucocorticoid receptor and activating the DCs corresponds to "activating the dendritic cells with a glucocorticoid," wherein the DCs are provided by culturing peripheral blood monocytes isolated from the subject and differentiating the monocytes into the DCs, providing the DCs with an antigen corresponds to "loading the dendritic cells with an antigen,"

and obtaining a DC capable of tolerizing a T cell corresponds to "isolating said loaded, activated dendritic cells." Therefore, independent claim 56 and dependent claims 57-63 read on species B.

Claim 64 is directed to a method of providing DCs with a substance capable of activating a glucocorticoid receptor corresponds to "activating the dendritic cells with dexamethasone," wherein the DCs are provided by "culturing peripheral blood monocytes to differentiate into dendritic cells," activating the DCs corresponds to "activating the dendritic cells with dexamethasone," providing the DCs with an antigen corresponds to "loading the dendritic cells with an antigen which is MHC-matched to a clonal T-cell," and obtaining a DC capable of tolerizing a T cell corresponds to "dendritic cells are capable of tolerizing the clonal T-cell in vitro to the antigen." Therefore, claim 64 reads on species B.

Claims 65-68 are directed to a method of providing DCs with a substance capable of activating a glucocorticoid receptor and activating the DCs correspond to "activating said dendritic cells," providing the DCs with an antigen corresponds to "loading-said dendritic cells with an antigen against which said T-cell is to be tolerized," to produce a DC capable of tolerizing a T cell. Therefore, independent claim 65 and dependent claims 66-68 read on species B.

As described herein, applicants indicate that independent claims 40, 51, 56, 64 and 65 read on species B, as do the claims depending from these independent claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for agreeing to expedite prosecution of this case upon submission of this response.

CONCLUSION

Should questions remain after consideration of the remarks herein that may be resolved by a telephonic interview, the Office is kindly invited to contact the applicants' representative at the number provided herein.

Respectfully submitted,



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